

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 01917

EXDIS

(C O R R E C T I O N PARA 2)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, EEC, XF, GW
SUBJECT: THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS AND THE MIDDLE EAST

REFS: (A) BONN 1760; (B) STATE 20956

1. ACCORDING TO FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER, WHO BRIEFED ME UPON HIS RETURN FROM THE LONDON MEETING OF EC FOREIGN MINISTERS, DISCUSSION OF MIDDLE EAST WAS THE CENTRAL POINT OF THE MEETING. THE BRITISH PRESIDENCY WAS CHARGED WITH INFORMING THE DEPARTMENT OF EC VIEWS, BUT HE WANTED TO GIVE ME AN INFORMAL REPORT.
2. GENSCHER REPORTED THAT THE MINISTERS AGREED ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE STATEMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST WHICH HAD BEEN PREPARED BY THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS (REFTELS). ONCE AGREEMENT ON SUBSTANCE WAS REACHED, GENSCHER ARGUED THAT THE STATEMENT SHOULD NOT BE PUBLISHED AT THIS TIME. IN THE ENSUING DISCUSSION IT BECAME CLEAR THAT SEVERAL MINISTERS WISHED TO PUBLISH THE STATEMENT, BUT ALL FINALLY AGREED FOR THE SAKE OF RESTRAINT NOT
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TO PUBLISH THE STATEMENT AT THIS TIME.

3. HOWEVER, WALDHEIM HAD NOT SHOWN THE SAME RESTRAINT AS THE EC. HIS STATEMENT WAS COUNTER PRODUCTIVE, GENSCHER SAID.
4. ACCORDING TO GENSCHER, THE GERMAN POSITION, WHICH

PREVAILED IN LONDON AND IS ALSO THE EC POSITION, IS THAT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE EC AND THE U.S. IS ESSENTIAL FOR PROGRESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. TRANS-ATLANTIC DEBATE AND DISAGREEMENT MUST BE AVOIDED. IN THIS SPIRIT, GENSCHER URGED THAT THE EC BE GIVEN A COMPREHENSIVE BRIEFING OF U.S. VIEWS ON THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, A PERSONAL CONTACT WITH SECRETARY VANCE WOULD BE VERY BENEFICIAL. THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO EUROPE WAS SUCCESSFUL; IT SHOULD BE FOLLOWED UP WITH A SIMILAR VISIT FROM THE SECRETARY.

5. I EXPRESSED TO GENSCHER OUR APPRECIATION FOR FIRST CONSULTING WITH US AND THEN FOR EXPRESSING THE U.S. POINT OF VIEW SO EFFECTIVELY IN THE EC MEETING. I SAID WE WOULD REPORT HIS REQUEST FOR A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY. ON THE STATEMENT ITSELF, I SAID THAT THE KEY POINT FOR US WAS THE QUESTION OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION. HERE WE FELT THAT WE SHOULD LISTEN TO THE VIEWS OF THE ARAB GOVERNMENTS BEFORE WE COMMITTED OURSELVES TO ANY SPECIFIC FORMULA. GENSCHER REPORTED THAT HE BELIEVES HE UNDERSTANDS THE ARAB POSITION BECAUSE BOTH SYRIA AND JORDAN HAVE PRESSED THE FRG TO DO SOMETHING ON PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION.

6. COMMENT: GENSCHER'S DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL, AS WELL AS HIS HOPE FOR A BRIEFING BY THE SECRETARY ON OUR PLANS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, CAME THROUGH LOUD AND CLEAR. IF THE SECRETARY COULD MEET WITH GENSCHER AND/OR NATO
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AND THE EC FOLLOWING HIS MIDDLE EAST TOUR THIS WOULD BE WELCOMED ENTHUSIASTICALLY IN BONN.
STOESSEL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

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